

Minutes of the School Board Meeting
Wednesday, May 2, 2001
Emery High School, Castle Dale, Utah

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 pm. Members present were Laurel Johansen, Royd Hatt, Marie Johnson, Sam Singleton and Rue Ware. Others present were Kirk Sitterud, Superintendent and Ross Huntington, Business Administrator.

A motion was made by Sam Singleton and seconded by Royd Hatt to approve the warrants and minutes as presented. Motion passed unanimously.

Gwen Callahan, Principal at Emery High School was welcomed to the meeting. Mrs. Callahan reported on the success of the new citizenship policy, the sexual harassment policy, and the attendance notification policy. The number of students on probation has been reduced substantially. Students are much more aware of their U's and are paying close attention to the consequences. Tardies have been reduced by 78% and the halls are usually empty after the tardy bell rings. Students have been educated on sexual harassment and no formal complaints have been received. Mrs. Callahan indicated that parents have been very appreciative of the timely notification if their child is absent. The school has been able to notify parents within 15-20 minutes if their child is absent each period.

Mrs. Callahan recommended the Board consider approving a charge for use of the Spartan Center for non-school sponsored activities. She will obtain sample contracts and pricing for the Board to review and then proceed from there.

She also recommended that Community Theater productions, held in the auditorium, be moved to the summer. This would eliminate scheduling educational events around Community Theater and allow Mr. Peacock and his stage crew to be available to help in the use of the facility. She also recommended that a contract be signed with Community Theater each time they use the auditorium stipulating they pay for any damages and cleaning after each use. It was determined that educational activities have the number one priority, that Mrs. Callahan should work with Community Theater in scheduling and that the Board will support her in her decisions.

Mrs. Callahan recommended that the Board consider changing the policy with regard to excused absences due to the large number of kids who have 10 or more per term and cannot possibly be seen by the LIC Council for intervention. She proposed that any absences over 10 parent excused, revert to the unexcused category and then can be dealt with through the court system on an educational neglect basis. It was decided that she should get with secondary school principals and Mr. J.J. Grant, Secondary Supervisor, and rewrite District policy for approval at a later date.

Eileen Lofthouse, who has chaired the piano selection committee, reported to the Board on the committee's selection. Mrs. Lofthouse made several recommendations on the care and maintenance of the new piano and for all pianos in the District. The Board thanked her, the other members of the committee for their efforts, and will consider their recommendations.

Following the recommendation of Superintendent Sitterud, a motion was made by Royd Hatt and seconded by Sam Singleton that Patrick Brady be hired as the new science teacher at Green River High School. Motion passed unanimously.

A motion was made by Sam Singleton and seconded by Marie Johnson to accept the resignation of Kendra Sagers, Ag. Science Teacher, at the end of this school year. Motion passed unanimously. A motion was made by Sam Singleton and seconded by Rue Ware to accept the resignations of Todd Burke, Business Teacher at Emery High and Jerri Jones, Sweeper at Emery High. Motion passed unanimously.

Superintendent Sitterud recommended the Board approve a 5 hour per day custodial position at Emery High to replace the 6 hour sweeper position and move ahead with the hiring. A motion was made by Marie Johnson and seconded by Royd Hatt to accept the recommendation. Motion passed unanimously.

Kathy Peterson, Principal at Ferron Elementary, requested participation in the District's early retirement plan last March pending the outcome of her application for a job in southern Utah. She was successful in her search and will be the new director of the service center in that part of the state. Superintendent Sitterud recommended the Board approve her participation in the early retirement plan, however, because she does not have the required 75 points, she will not be provided health and life insurance. A motion was made by Rue Ware and seconded by Marie Johnson to approve the recommendation. Motion passed unanimously.

A letter requesting rental of three buses by the Castle Dale Utah LDS Stake was presented to the Board. The Superintendent recommended that the District honor the Stake's request provided they reimburse the District for all costs and furnish proof of liability insurance. A motion was made by Marie Johnson and seconded by Royd Hatt to accept the Superintendent's recommendation. Motion passed unanimously.

Superintendent Sitterud has received School Trustland Plans for next year from Castle Dale Elementary, Cleveland Elementary, Cottonwood Elementary, Ferron Elementary, Canyon View Jr High and San Rafael Jr. High Schools. He recommended that the Board approve the plans as written. A motion was made by Marie Johnson and seconded by Royd Hatt to accept the recommendation. Motion passed unanimously.

A revision of Policy IGD, governing supervision of students when traveling to and from activities, was recommended by the Superintendent. A motion was made by Rue Ware and seconded by Sam Singleton to approve the revision. Motion passed unanimously.

Superintendent Sitterud presented the Board with a revised calendar (copy attached and is a part of these minutes) for next school year which reflects the change in UEA and also includes the minimum days approved by the Board as well as the two additional professional development days related to the U-PASS legislation. With the addition of two days of staff development the week before school starts, he asked the Board to consider the option of not having an opening

school institute this year, allowing the teachers to spend that additional time in their schools preparing for the first day of school. A motion was made by Royd Hatt and seconded by Sam Singleton to approve the recommendation. Motion passed unanimously.

The Superintendent recommended adding AP Statistics to curriculum offerings at Emery High and teaching the course if enough students enroll, this to be done without adding staffing. A motion was made by Rue Ware and seconded by Marie Johnson to approve the recommendation. Motion passed unanimously.

A motion was made by Rue Ware and seconded by Sam Singleton to adjourn to executive session to discuss personnel items and possible litigation. Motion passed unanimously.

Garth Johnson, who was recently selected as the Principal at San Rafael Jr. High School, beginning next school year thanked the Board for their show of confidence in him and assured him that he will do the best job he possibly can.

Upon reconvening to general session a motion was made by Royd Hatt and seconded by Laurel Johansen that in order for a retiring employee to qualify for the usual retirement gift from the district they must qualify for one of the two district early retirement policies or the State retirement plan, and a minimum of the last ten years having been served with the Emery district. Motion passed unanimously.

A motion was made by Sam Singleton and seconded by Royd Hatt to adjourn. Motion passed unanimously.